10. (New) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising means for transmitting said pilots over a plurality of carrier signals.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said means for transmitting said plurality of carrier signals includes means for transmitting said plurality of carrier signals from a corresponding plurality of differently configured means for antennas.

REMARKS

Applicant hereby without prejudice cancels claim 1 on file, and substitutes new claims 2-11 for examination by the Examiner.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, allowance of this application with claims 2-11 is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 4, 2002 By: S. H. Beladi

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APPENDIX A

2. A method for a communications system, comprising the steps of:

identifying a plurality of base stations in an Active set of a mobile station in a handoff process among said plurality of base stations;

measuring at said mobile station respective signal qualities of pilots respectively transmitted by said base stations in said Active set of said mobile station;

comparing said respective signal qualities of said pilots to a standard, said standard determined in response to said signal quality of at least one of said pilots in said active set and a delta value of signal quality, wherein said delta value is a representative of a fixed signal level below a strongest pilot signal level of said pilots;

determining which of said base stations are to transmit respective code channels to said mobile station and which are not to transmit respective code channels to said mobile station based on whether which of said pilots at said mobile station equal or surpass said standard in said handoff process among said plurality of base stations.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said measuring step comprises measuring signal qualities of pilots respectively transmitted by at least one sector of a respective one of said plurality of base stations in said Active set.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said comparing step comprises determining whether at least one finger of a diversity receiver has been allocated to a code channel signal from a base station.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said pilots are transmitted over a plurality of carrier signals.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said plurality of carrier signals are transmitted from a corresponding plurality of differently configured antennas.

7. An apparatus for a communications system, comprising the steps of:

means for identifying a plurality of base stations in an Active set of a mobile station in a handoff process among said plurality of base stations;

means for measuring at said mobile station respective signal qualities of pilots respectively transmitted by said base stations in said Active set of said mobile station;

means for comparing said respective signal qualities of said pilots to a standard, said standard determined in response to said signal quality of at least one of said pilots in said active set and a delta value of signal quality, wherein said delta value is a representative of a fixed signal level below a strongest pilot signal level of said pilots;

means for determining which of said base stations are to transmit respective code channels to said mobile station and which are not to transmit respective code channels to said mobile station based on whether which of said pilots at said mobile station equal or surpass said standard in said handoff process among said plurality of base stations.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said measuring means comprises means for measuring signal qualities of pilots respectively transmitted by at least one sector of a respective one of said plurality of base stations in said Active set.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said comparing means comprises means for determining whether at least one finger of a diversity receiver has been allocated to a code channel signal from a base station.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising means for transmitting said pilots over a plurality of carrier signals.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said means for transmitting said plurality of carrier signals includes means for transmitting said plurality of carrier signals from a corresponding plurality of differently configured means for antennas.